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DEPARTMENT OF NOTES, REVIEWS, ETC.

It is the purpose, in this department, to present from time to time brief original notes, both of methods of work and of results, by members of the Society. All members are invited to submit such items. In the absence of these there will be given a few brief abstracts of recent work of more general interest to students and teachers. There will be no attempt to make these abstracts exhaustive. They will illustrate progress without attempting to define it, and will thus give to the teacher current illustrations, and to the isolated student suggestions of suitable fields of investigation.—[Editor.]

A SYSTEM FOR LOCATING OBJECTS ON MICROSCOPE SLIDES

By N. A. COBB

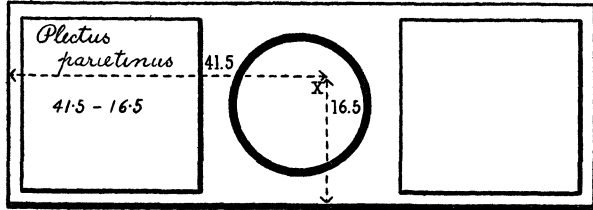
All mathematical methods of recording the position of a microscopic object on a slide use a system of coördinates. Most microscope makers provide some scaled mechanism, usually in connection with the mechanical stage, which allows of two readings that locate the position of the object. Sometimes the scales are engraved on the two traverses of the stage, sometimes on a special microscope slide.

The various systems are not in harmony, so that it is often inconvenient to use on one microscope records made on another. There are contrivances for overcoming this inconvenience, some of much merit, but none of them have come into wide use, to say nothing of universal use.

The object of this communication is to propose a basis for agreement so simple that it may possibly win universal support. The proposal is to make one corner of the slide, say the lower left hand corner, the point of origin for the system of coördinates. The lower left hand corner of the slide then becomes zero, and any object is located by telling how far to the right of zero it lies, and how far above zero. Any system of linear measurement may be used.

Thus in the illustration the location of the object "x" is recorded by the figures 41.5-16.5 millimeters; the object is 41.5 millimeters to the right of and 16.5 millimeters above zero.

Against certain small objections may be urged a considerable number of practical points. First, the *point of origin is a natural one*, fixed, not registered, that exists on every rectangular slide regardless of its size; in a certain sense therefore it is not arbi-



trary. Second, it is possible to locate objects, approximately at least, *without mechanical apparatus*. This is of importance to a vast number of microscopists who have few accessories. Third, *any point on the slide* is indicated by figures having a positive sign.

To one having a plain simple stage without any other accessories than spring clips it is possible by this system to find the coördinates of an object by the following simple method.

Take a piece of *thin* paper about ten centimeters long by four centimeters wide, or larger, and make a pinhole near the middle. Clamp this paper to the stage with the clips, and bring the pinhole to the center of the microscope field. Place the slide on the paper, turn on a strong light, and it will generally be found that the object can be examined in this fashion. When the object is found, place it centrally in the field, see that the pinhole is also central, and with a sharp pencil point trace the lower and left hand edges of the slide. Finally measure the distances from the pinhole to these two lines. These measurements will be the coördinates desired. To find an object given its coördinates, reverse the process.

ENTOMOLOGICAL NOTES

Stylops and Stylopization.—Smith and Hamm ('14, Quart. Journ. Micr. Sci., N. Ser., 60: 435-461) find that in spite of the fact that active, winged males of *Stylops* exist, fertilization cannot occur and development is always parthenogenetic. This parasite causes a reduction of about three-fourths in the size of the ovaries of the host bee and no ripe ova are ever produced. The testes are